

STATUS OF FIVE SPECIES OF MALLOPHAGA DESCRIBED  
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*Abstract.*—*Strigiphilus lophotrix* Carriker, 1966 is a new synonym of *S. transversifrons* (Carriker, 1903); *Sturnidoecus incomptus* Ansari, 1955 is a new synonym of *S. caligineus* (Carriker, 1903); and *Formicaphagus gulariae* Carriker, 1957 is a new synonym of *F. rhamphasti* (Carriker, 1903).

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In his first major paper on Mallophaga, Carriker (1903) described 45 new species and subspecies from birds that he (1910) and C. F. Underwood collected in Costa Rica in 1902. Carriker (1967), in a paper published posthumously, provided his last opinion of the taxonomic status of all the forms which he described as new. Recently, I had an opportunity to examine the types of several species described by him, and this is a report of my findings.

The names of birds given below are from Peters (1940, 1948, 1951).

*Strigiphilus transversifrons* (Carriker)

*Docophorus transversifrons* Carriker, 1903: 127, pl. 1, fig. 1. Host: *Micrastur guerrila* (error) = *Lophotrix cristata stricklandi* Sclater and Salvin.

*Strigiphilus lophotrix* Carriker, 1966: 89, figs. 24-25. NEW SYNONYMY. Host: *Lophotrix cristata wedeli* Grisom.

*Philopterus transversifrons* (Carriker). Carriker, 1967: 79. Host: *Micrastur ruficollis interstes* Bangs (error) = *Lophotrix cristata stricklandi* Sclater and Salvin.

Holotype male and allotype female are both on USNM type slide 68262, and both belong to the genus *Strigiphilus*, a genus found only on owls. Carriker (1910) stated that he and Underwood collected only four species of owls in June 1902 in the vicinity of Pozo Azul, Costa Rica. They were *Strix virgata* (Cassin), *Rhinoptynx clamator* (Vieillot), *Pulsatrix perspicillata* (Latham), and *Lophotrix stricklandi* Sclater and Salvin. Later, Carriker (1954, 1966) described four new species of *Strigiphilus*, one for the form found on each of these owls. Fortunately the type for each of these four new species of Mallophaga is also in the USNM. The type of *Doco-*

*phorus transversifrons* is identical with that of the *Strigiphilus lophostrix* Carriker, 1966 (USNM type slide 68815).

*Sturnidoecus caligineus* (Carriker)

*Nirmus caligineus* Carriker, 1903: 144, pl. 3, fig. 2. Host: *Merula grayi* = *Turdus grayi casius* (Bonaparte).

*Sturnidoecus incomptus* Ansari, 1955: 72, t.f. 18a-f. NEW SYNONYMY. Host: *Turdus grayi incomptus* (Bangs).

*Penenirmus caligineus* (Carriker). Carriker, 1967: 105. Host: *Turdus grayi casius* (Bonaparte).

Holotype female and allotype male of *Nirmus caligineus* are both on USNM type slide 68273 and they agree with the holotype male and allotype female of *Sturnidoecus incomptus* Ansari, 1955 on USNM type slide 76393.

*Formicaphagus rhamphasti* (Carriker)

*Nirmus rhamphasti* Carriker, 1903: 135, pl. 2, fig. 1. Host: "Rhamphastos tocard" (error) = *Grallaria perspicillata lizanoi* Cherrie.

*Formicaphagus grallariae* Carriker, 1957: 426, figs. 3b, 5f, 6f. NEW SYNONYMY. Host: *Grallaria perspicillata intermedia* Ridgway.

*Sturnidoecus ramphasti* (Carriker) Carriker, 1967: 10. Host: *Ramphastos swainsoni* Gould (error) = *Grallaria perspicillata lizanoi* Cherrie.

Holotype male of *Nirmus rhamphasti* on USNM type slide 68267 agrees with the allotype male of *Formicaphagus grallariae* on USNM type slide 68682, which also has the holotype female. *Formicaphagus* is a genus of Mallophaga found only on the antbirds (Formicariidae). Carriker and Underwood collected twelve species of antbirds in the vicinity of Pozo Azul, Costa Rica. I have not seen Mallophaga from each of the hosts they collected, but fortunately Carriker described *F. grallariae* which agrees with the specimen he earlier described as *N. rhamphasti*. Carriker (1957) erected the genus *Formicaphagus* for a distinctive group of Mallophaga found only on antbirds. When he compiled his list of described forms (1967), he noted the host originally given for *N. rhamphasti* was incorrect and stated, "It resembles very much the genus *Sturnidoecus*." Apparently he was not convinced he was correct in placing it in *Sturnidoecus*. I suspect the incorrect host data caused him to overlook the species when he erected *Formicaphagus*. Had he re-examined the type of *N. rhamphasti*, I am sure he would have properly placed the form because of the distinctive male genitalia.

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